

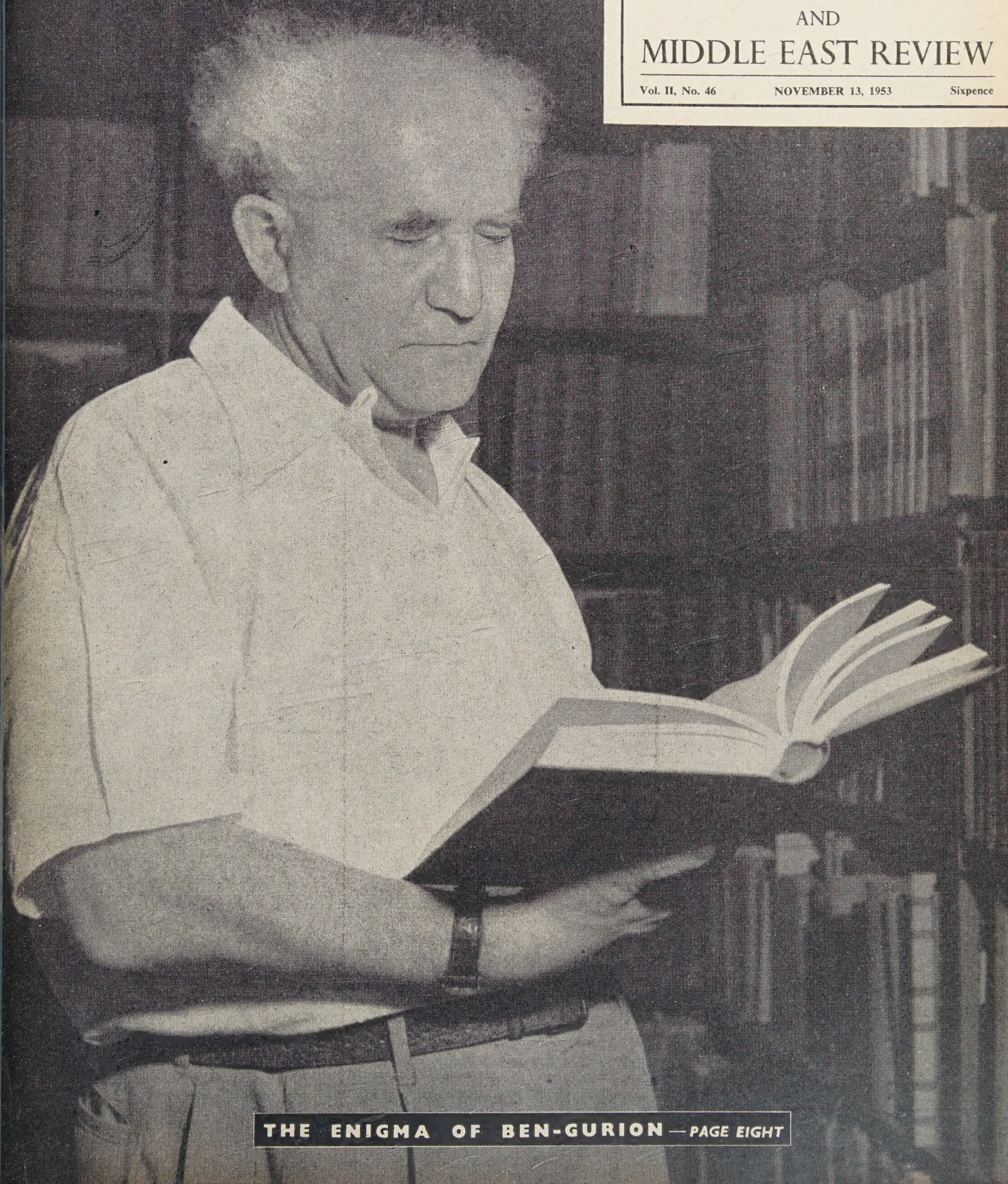
# JEWISH OBSERVER

AND  
MIDDLE EAST REVIEW

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**THE ENIGMA OF BEN-GURION — PAGE EIGHT**



## JEWISH OBSERVER AND MIDDLE EAST REVIEW

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- Cover Picture shows Premier Ben-Gurion in the private library of his Tel Aviv home.

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# THE WEEK

## BRITISH PLEA TO ISRAEL

IN JERUSALEM it became known that Premier Ben-Gurion's determination to resign was unchanged by his Party's plea. Mapai's Central Committee met on Wednesday to consider a successor to Ben-Gurion. Sharett had again become a favourite for the post, though Eshkol still had strong Party backing.

IN NEW YORK, in the Security Council last Monday, Sir Gladwyn Jebb, the British delegate to the Security Council, strongly condemned Israel for the attack on Qibya and made an earnest appeal to Israel not to try and justify it; "we all make mistakes," he pleaded. He was supported by the U.S. and France.

On Tuesday, the Council heard the Syrian delegate declare that "plans for the development of the Jordan valley must await full implementation of the armistice agreement." The Council then adjourned the Jordan river discussion until next Monday.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS debated the impact on the Middle East, especially on Israel, of a British withdrawal from Egypt; Mr. Eden spoke also of Israel-Jordan tension.

THE FOREIGN SECRETARY stated in Parliament on Wednesday that the British Government will not move its Embassy to Jerusalem and does not recognise Israel's sovereignty over the New City which she occupies.

AT THE YORK DIOCESAN CONFERENCE, Dr. Cyril Garbett blamed Israel for the "cruel massacre" of Qibya, spoke of the "unsatisfactory position in Palestine, and charged that "the Jewish vote in New York" had paralysed U.N. action.

CONDEMNATION OF THE ARCHBISHOP for a "provocative and one-sided statement" came from the Board of Deputies of British Jews, from the American Jewish Committee and other Jewish leaders in the U.S.; from the Mayor-elect of New York and the *New York Times*.

THE FUTURE OF THE ARAB REFUGEES was debated by the U.N. Special Political Committee in New York. The U.S. Government warned the Arab States and Israel that it would not continue indefinitely its financial help for the



Dr. Cyril Garbett, Archbishop of York—  
inflames a controversy.

refugees; in the U.S. view Israel and the Arab States had the primary responsibility for their rehabilitation. New Zealand and the Lebanon suggested that Israel should accept back a significant number of Palestinian Refugees.

ON ISRAEL'S BORDERS there were twelve more incidents on the central frontier with Jordan; one serious incident on the Gaza border with Egypt; and one of the rare incidents on the Lebanese frontier.

NO FURTHER PROGRESS was reported in the Anglo-Egyptian talks; the Sudan election results were awaited by both parties before taking the next step.

KING ABDUL AZIZ IBN SAUD of Saudi Arabia died on Monday morning following a heart attack. He is succeeded by the eldest of his 45 known sons, the Emir Saud who becomes King Saud. The Emir Feisal becomes Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

THE 29TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE of the Jewish National Fund was held in London under the Presidency of Mr. Sigmund Gestetner.





Argov—No Surrender to General Zionists.

## BEN-GURION

### POLITICS OF RESIGNATION

Premier Ben-Gurion is now selecting the 400 books from his vast library which he proposes to take with him into retirement at *Sdeh Boker*, cables *David Kimche*, our *Jerusalem Correspondent*.

It is not expected that his actual departure from the political scene will take place before the end of the year. He wants to see the future coalition firmly established, and the Security Council discussion settled, before his withdrawal to the Negev.

**No Mapai surrender to Right:** Meanwhile the future composition of the Government has remained unsettled as all the parties waited for the postponed resumption of the Mapai Central Committee meeting, which took place on Wednesday evening. The Committee heard Ben-Gurion's reply to its request that he should remain in office; a negative reply has, however, been taken for granted even before the meeting. The question of a successor to the premiership and the party's stand to demands of the General Zionists are now the main issues.

Mapai leaders have already intimated that they do not intend to surrender lightly to these General Zionist demands which include the post of Deputy-Premier, presumably for Bernstein, that of Deputy Finance Minister for Suzayeff, a well known industrialist, and a Deputy Minister of Education. In a series of speeches over the weekend Mapai leaders

have emphatically rejected all these demands; most outspoken was Mapai's General Secretary, Meir Argov, who sharply attacked the General Zionists for attempting to make political capital out of the Premier's resignation. "Mapai will make no concessions to the General Zionists other than those in the original coalition agreement," he intimated.

**General Zionists explain:** It thus seems that the inter-party negotiations due to begin at the end of this week will probably be long and protracted, despite Ben-Gurion's plea that negotiations should be concluded as soon as possible. He is not expected to submit his resignation to the President until the outstanding differences between the two parties are settled.

Explaining the stand they had taken, the General Zionist spokesman stated that whereas Ben-Gurion had been enough of a statesman to put the interests of the country before those of his party, the General Zionists did not believe that other Mapai leaders would follow the same course. Therefore they felt that they had to strengthen their influence inside the Government to counterbalance the new outlook of the Mapai majority in the Cabinet.

**Progressives state terms:** The Progressives also have demands of their own. They have announced their intention of leaving the Coalition unless Mapai and the General Zionists cancel the agreement to introduce legislation which would deprive all parties who fail to poll ten per cent of the electorate, of representation in the Knesset. This law would liquidate the Progressive Party which polled only three-and-a-half per cent at the last elections. They also demand a liberalisation of policy towards the Arab minority and a say in matters of foreign policy.

Mapai had also not finally settled the question of who will be the next Premier before Wednesday's meeting. At first it seemed that Eshkol was the favourite in the field, particularly as he had Ben-Gurion's support, but now his nomination is less certain. It has been increasingly challenged by Sharett who has received the strong support of powerful groups within the Party.

The General Zionist intimation that they would not agree to the Premier holding also the post of Finance Minister has further weakened the chances of Eshkol. The situation, however, remains in a state of flux. The entire character of the new coalition will ultimately be determined by the degree of agreement obtained during the inter-party negotiations.



Israel Arabs visiting Jerusalem Exhibition. Progressives demand a liberalisation of policy towards Arab minority.

## LONDON

### ANGLO-JEWISH ASSOCIATION AND ISRAEL

Two recent statements by prominent leaders of the Anglo-Jewish Association on the relations of Anglo-Jewry with Israel have caused grave concern in Jewish quarters.

A statement by the Hon. Ewen Montagu, President of the Anglo-Jewish Association, that the Israelis who attacked Quibya had no right to call themselves Jews was broadcast in the B.B.C. News Service on Wednesday morning, and Mr. Montagu later confirmed that it accurately represented his views.

The B.B.C. report was extracted from the presidential statement made by Mr. Montagu at a Council meeting of the Anglo-Jewish Association on Tuesday night. The passage from which it was taken was as follows:

"We are not responsible in any way for what goes on in Israel, and the making of statements commenting upon these actions, in normal circumstances, may well lead to confusion in the public mind as to that position. Already the situation has reached such a point that the Archbishop of York can see fit to speak of attacks by "the Jews" or by "Jewish soldiers" upon Arabs, whereas we all know that this is a complete distortion of the position.

"The attacks were not by "the Jews" or by "Jewish soldiers" but by Israelis, and as I have already said,





Isaac Wolfson—in Israel to discuss economic problems with Finance Minister Eshkol.

no Jew who really is a Jew and influenced by his religion could ever bring himself to commit such an action."

(See p. 17 for report of meeting)

#### MR. NEVILLE LASKI, Q.C.

The *Hackney Gazette* on Monday carried the following report of a meeting of the Anglo-Jewish Association in Stoke Newington:

"WOULD FIGHT AGAINST ISRAEL"  
*Jewish Q.C. on Allegiance*

Mr. Neville Laski, well-known Jewish Q.C., told a meeting of the Anglo-Jewish Association at the Library Hall, Stoke Newington, on



Sam Watson, General Secretary of the Durham Miners, visiting Israel with his wife.

Thursday evening, that should Britain ever declare war against Israel, he would meet his responsibilities as a British citizen. "I would fight against Israel if my country asked me to," he said in reply to a question.

In his speech Mr. Laski discussed the allegiances of Jews to the countries of which they are citizens. "There is a State called Israel. There are people called Israeli, the vast majority of whom are Jews. They owe allegiance to their country. We owe it to ours," he declared.

"Each Jewish citizen must resolve the question of dual allegiance," he said. "We cannot use our citizenship only when it is convenient."

On Wednesday morning, Mr. Laski told the *Jewish Observer and Middle East Review* that the report accurately represented what he had said at the meeting. "I will only add that I said that such an event was an extreme hypothesis, unlikely to come about, but if it did then my course of action would be what I said it would be," he added.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEBATE

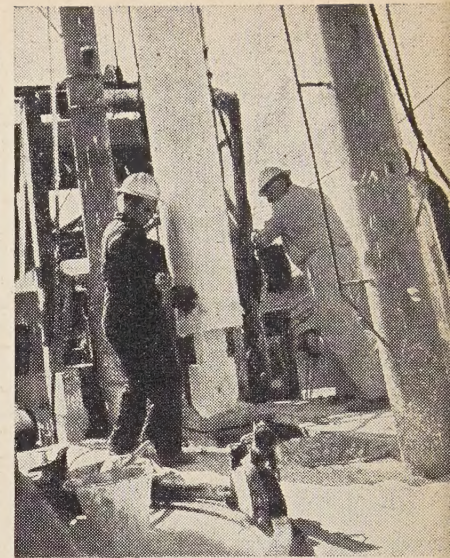
Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden referred to the problem of Israel-Jordan border tension and to the Anglo-Egyptian negotiations for evacuation of the Suez Base when he led the Foreign Affairs debate in the House of Commons on Thursday of last week.

Tension had risen to a dangerous pitch as a result of the attack on Quibya, he said, and at the London meeting with Dulles and Bidault it was decided to ask the President of the Security Council to call an urgent meeting.

**Obstructing Peace:** "I think the whole House will join in deploring the events at Quibya, in what General Bennike has described as a 'night of horror'," Mr. Eden said. "It must be clear to everyone that an outrage of this kind can only obstruct the chances of peace, which Israel assures us she is so anxious to obtain."

The Foreign Secretary added: "Of course, we know that this problem has a background of infiltration across the Israel-Jordan border. This is the real difficulty."

The infiltration over the 300 mile-long border would not be solved until a solution was found to the Arab-Israel dispute and until the Palestine refugees were re-settled. But Mr. Eden rejected the idea that the Jordan Government



First drilling for oil in Israel begins at Mazel, near the Dead Sea.

"connive at or encourage" infiltration.

"I think they have taken energetic measures to stop it," he asserted. He had checked figures of recent cases since 1952 where arrests had been made for infiltration. 3,524 had been convicted and 621 acquitted.

On Egypt, the Foreign Secretary said "Negotiations are still in being, but they are in a state of suspended animation. We have made our position plain and our offers are still open."

**Labour and Suez:** Hector McNeil, who was Labour Minister of State from 1945-1950, followed Mr. Eden and stressed "that we should be exceedingly circumspect in referring to the incident on the Jordan-Israel frontier."

No attempt to improve the situation could make progress unless there was a sustained and systematic attempt to deal with the unhappy situation of the Arab refugees.

But resettlement could not be done by the Western Powers alone. Resettlement must be in the neighbouring countries, and conditions must be discovered in which their co-operation could be secured.

A strong hint that the Labour Party might oppose a settlement with Egypt unless it was accompanied by safeguard ensuring that Egypt would not use arm and other means supplied to her for the defence of the Suez Base "against any of her neighbours in the Middle East" was contained in Mr. McNeil's comment on the Suez negotiations.

**Free Port of Haifa?** There should also be a correction of the position in relation to the use of the Suez Canal. "Illegally and improperly, the Egyptian



Government have used their position to impede lawful traffic through the Canal to the economic distress of the whole area—and I make it plain that for myself I am not here thinking only of Israel," he said.

He also hoped, Mr. McNeil said, that the Government would "take their courage in their hands and go a step further in discussing with the Government of Israel the position of Haifa . . . I mean that it is not only a question of regularising the traffic in the Canal Zone but of the reopening of the refinery at Haifa.

"From time to time there have been discussions about the possibility of making the port, or a part of the port, free, or of providing free facilities, provided that the sovereignty of Haifa is unimpaired."

If the Government received responses on these points, then the revision of the Egyptian Treaty might make for the betterment of the whole Middle East area; if it did not, "then it will be an evil thing," McNeil concluded.

**Opposed to Suez Agreement:** Enoch Powell and Julian Amery both severely criticised the evacuation of British fighting forces from Suez. It would be a fatal step, according to Mr. Powell.

"An agreement . . . which rests upon the mere word and undertaking of the Egyptian Government is not worth the parchment on which it is engrossed," he declared, citing Egypt's "repeatedly breaking" of the Sudan Agreement signed less than a year ago, and Egypt's "flouting her duties" with regard to the right of free passage through the Suez Canal.

Evacuation would be a semi-veiled surrender . . . "It will not be a final step; it will not be a final settlement; it will be the beginning of a series of similar steps, steps downwards, steps of degradation."

**Egypt Government "Unreliable":** Julian Amery, who spoke of the desirability of an agreement with Egypt, questioned the competence of the present régime in Egypt to speak for Egypt in general.

"The Government of Egypt is a dictatorship, a military dictatorship; but the dictator, General Neguib, seems to be the mouthpiece rather than the master of the Junta of Officers over which he presides. It is with this junta that the real power lies . . . Some are said to lean to the fanatical Moslem Brotherhood, others to the Communist Party . . .

"The military Government . . . came to power by a *coup d'état*, by a *putsch*.



Strachey—Evacuate but defend Commonwealth.

So questionable, indeed, is its constitutional position that Her Majesty's Government have not yet accorded it *de jure* recognition."

Mr. Amery listed arrests without trials, secret trials, savage sentences on undisclosed evidence, as features of the regime in Egypt. He spoke of a dominating army and "a xenophobe mob" turning away from the intractable domestic problems of Egypt and concentrating increasingly upon Egyptian leadership in the Arab world and a victorious second round against Israel.

**Defending the Commonwealth — Strachey:** Support for the principle of evacuation within the principle that British forces should be held free to



Nutting—"Over-optimistic" refugee report.

defend the Commonwealth against outside aggression was given by John Strachey, former Labour Party Minister of War.

"If we keep 80,000 men there (in the Suez Base) against the will of, and in the face of, sustained agitation by the whole population of that country, we destroy any purpose which keeping those men there may have had in maintaining the strength of the Commonwealth in that area," he said.

**Criticism of "Middle East Experts":** Advocating release for "the poor British soldier" garrisoning the Suez Canal, Charles Fletcher-Cooke said: "Now we have almost got into the position . . . in which the Labour Party is saying that the British must not leave the Canal Zone because the Israelis do not like the Egyptians and withdrawal means that the Egyptians will be stronger."

"It is the tendency not only in the Opposition, but among Middle Eastern experts . . . who are either devoted to the memory of Colonel T. E. Lawrence or to Dr. Chaim Weizmann, to urge that it is always the responsibility of the British to come to the rescue of the followers of whichever of these two men they favour. . . . What is good for Britain is undoubtedly to reduce our commitments."

**Gloomy Report on Refugees:** The debate was wound up by Anthony Nutting, Joint Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, who gave a gloomy report on the progress of resettlement plans for Arab refugees.

"The problem of refugees and their resettlement bedevils the whole question of Jordan-Israel and, indeed, Arab-Israel relations," he said. The U.N. Relief and Works Agency had been trying to bring about a solution to this problem but "progress has been disappointing". The annual report of the Acting Director of the Agency had pointed out, Mr. Nutting said, that the timing of the three-year relief plan, for 1951 to 1954, was over-optimistic.

**Problem Increasing:** This was "primarily because of the reluctance of the refugees to accept the principle of resettlement, and also because of the time required for preliminary engineering work on any project big enough to make an impression on the problem".

The Agency had only been able to resettle 10,000 refugees during the year ending June 30, 1953. This left about 870,000 and it was estimated that over 20,000 children were born in the camps each year. The problem was therefore increasing.

*Kingold 19/54*



# U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL

## JEBB'S PLEA TO EBAN "WE HAVE ALL MADE MISTAKES"

Sir Gladwyn Jebb, the British delegate in the United Nations Security Council explained the British Government's attitude to the Quibya "incident" and the Israel-Arab tension in a long and earnest speech when the Security Council resumed its discussion on Monday.

Sir Gladwyn Jebb said the further information received about the raid and the increased toll of life "can only confirm my Government in condemning it, and reinforce their opinion that it has constituted a threat to the security of the entire area. Israel had already been condemned by the Mixed Armistice Commission. The question was, did the Security Council share the opinion of the Mixed Armistice Commission "and in particular does it believe with the Chief of Staff that the raid was the work of Israeli military forces?"

**Israel responsible:** "With the greatest respect," Jebb continued, "I suggest that the broadcast statement by the Israel Prime Minister, Mr. Ben-Gurion on October 19 does not in itself preclude such a conclusion, since that statement only denied the allegation that 600 men of the Israeli Defence Forces took part in the action and asserted that no 'unit' was absent from its base on the night of the attack on Quibya."

Whether the body which took part in the raid consisted of regulars or militia had really no bearing on the case. "In either event it was a disciplined, organised, Israel military force," Sir Gladwyn Jebb said. "In the view of Her Majesty's Government, therefore, it is very difficult for the Israel Government to escape responsibility for the attack."

The British delegate continued: "I should like to repeat that my Government's feelings would not be very different whether this attack was undertaken by militia, that is to say settlers armed and organised by the Israel authorities, or by the regular army of Israel."

**Dangers of violence:** "The unfortunate thing is that this kind of wholesale and indiscriminate reprisal should be indulged in at all. And the whole situation is made worse by the apparent unwillingness of the Israel Government to punish those responsible and hence, by implication, their willingness to condone it. This can only encourage other such incidents as well as the growth of a spirit

of violence in their citizens which may bode ill for the future."

No one denied the existence of "infiltration," nor that it involved the Israelis in loss of life and property, he continued. No one would deny that the Israel authorities would be justified in using strong measures to check it, insofar as damage to property or loss of life has



Sir Gladwyn Jebb—"The danger of *lex talionis*."

resulted. But, he added, not everyone who crossed the armistice demarcation line did so with criminal intent.

**A life for a life:** The trouble about such a reprisal raid as at Quibya was that it would probably only result in a growth of a number of persons who decided to cross into Israel to revenge themselves by taking a life for life.

The British delegate warned that "this reprisal raid" might bring on Israel the very thing she had hoped to stop. Trespassers might now enter Israel in a spirit of revenge prepared to commit desperate acts. Israel might retaliate with more raids until the fabric of the Armistice Agreement was "torn to shreds and general hostilities follow."

"Clearly," he added, "the situation arising from this vicious circle must be controlled before it gets completely out of hand."

**Jordan's difficulty:** Sir Gladwyn Jebb mentioned "the very difficult position"

in which the Jordan Government had been placed by reprisal raids. "Without breaking the Armistice Agreement they cannot authorise any retaliatory action by their own forces," he said. "They are obliged to exercise restraint and to control the more turbulent elements of their population."

"The Israel Government must realise that their statements about their difficulty to put up with the situation apply at least in equal measure to the inhabitants of Jordan. The General Armistice Agreements were bulwarks against a general breakdown of peaceful conditions and must not be undermined or ignored in the search for some smaller, local advantage."

**It's human to err:** "However much the Israelis may consider they have been provoked—and, as I have said, there is some doubt about the extent of the provocation—it is sad, as we think, that the *lex talionis* (law of tooth and claw) should apparently find such ready acceptance among a small people, themselves composed for the most part of refugees who have suffered unspeakable hardships and oppressions," Sir Gladwyn Jebb continued.

"It is human to err. All of us, as nations, have done something which we would prefer to forget. No nation is perfect."

"But if the small liberal democracy, which, we believe, the sons of Israel are seeking to establish in Palestine is to preserve the sympathy of its friends throughout the world, then we suggest that it would certainly be well advised not to try to show, as some of the Israel press have sought to do, that the destruction of a village in Jordan territory and the slaughter of its inhabitants, most of whom were undoubtedly quite innocent, was thoroughly justified, and indeed the logical and final result of a chain of incidents."

**No excuse for Quibya:** "We can, indeed, regard this raid in its context, with the whole unhappy background of the relations of Israel with her neighbours. We can, and we should, do our utmost to rectify a situation fraught with dangerous possibilities and to diminish the mutual hatred and recrimination which must necessarily result from the continuance of a state of war and the failure up till now to agree on a frontier. But that does not mean that we should seek to find any excuse for the raid on Quibya itself. I can hardly



believe that any member of the Council will try to excuse that.

"And my earnest hope is that the representative of Israel will, on consideration, not excuse it either," Sir Gladwyn Jebb concluded.

**U.S., French support for Jebb:** The American, French and Greek delegates then endorsed the views expressed by Sir Gladwyn Jebb. Dr. Charles Malik, the Lebanese representative, said it was his sincere and earnest hope that the Security Council would act firmly and justly on the basis of ascertained fact. Better conditions might then arise in the Middle East which in turn would lead to a furtherance of peace and security.

Mr. Henry Cabot Lodge, of the United States, said he agreed with Sir Gladwyn Jebb. There appeared to be no doubt that the raid was a violation of the cease-fire agreement between Israel and Jordan. But he expected that the Security Council would take formal action only after it had heard the views of Israel and Jordan on the incident. "It is with sadness but firmness that my delegation must endorse the condemnation of the attack by Israel armed forces on Qibya."

**Eban "moderate and constructive":** Mr. Abba Eban, of Israel, said he had listened with "interest and care" to the views expressed by Britain, France and the United States, but would not reply to them at this meeting; he would have a moderate and constructive contribution to make in a two hour speech which would develop Israel's practical proposals for strengthening the peace of the area.

Consultations regarding the resolution to be tabled on the subject were continuing between Britain, France and the United States. American sources said that the resolution was not yet in final form. They added that it was doubtful whether it would be formally presented until after the Council had heard Israel and Jordan speak.

**Israel to be censured?:** It was reported in U.N. circles that the proposed resolution would censure Israel for the Qibya incident and would also seek to strengthen the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation along the borders. The Council will next meet on the Qibya incident on Thursday of this week when Mr. Abba Eban, the Israel delegate, is expected to give a detailed answer to the accusations that Israel armed forces carried out the Qibya raid.

**Procedural delay:** Sir Gladwyn Jebb was unable to start his speech until after

the Council had decided that a 55-page document giving General Bennike's answer to questions asked him by members of the Council and by Israel and Jordan should be attached to the official report of today's meeting.

Agreement to dispense with the read-



*The Lebanon's Charles Malik—"Act firmly and justly."*

ing of the answers by General Bennike was obtained only after a procedural argument in which Dr. Charles Malik, of the Lebanon, asked that the document be read. Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld, the United Nations Secretary-General, assured Dr. Malik that there was nothing secretive about the document.

## BENNIKE ANSWERS

General Vagn Bennike, Chief Truce Supervisor in Palestine, had earlier told the United Nations Security Council that Israel and Jordan had taken precautions against attempts on his life and insisted on giving him police protection.

It was one of his replies to the Security Council's 62 questions which he answered in a 55-page Memorandum intended to aid the Council in its enquiry.

**1,358 complaints:** He told M. Henry Hoppenot, of France, that since the Armistice Commission began its work there had been 816 complaints by Israel

of truce violations by Jordan, and 542 complaints by Jordan against Israel. From 1950 up to date the Commission had passed resolutions condemning Israel for 63 truce violations and Jordan for 50.

Israel had complained that 89 Israelis had been killed during that period in Israel by Jordan attacks and 101 wounded. The Armistice Commission had verified 24 deaths and 40 wounded. Jordan had complained that 175 Jordanians were killed by Israel attacks and 129 wounded. Verified deaths totalled 77 with 48 wounded.

General Bennike was asked by the Israel delegate about his statement that Israel 'planes had attacked Beduins and their herds in the demilitarised zone. The general, in reply listed a number of reports of such attacks by his observers. Mr. Eban said that neither he nor his colleagues had ever heard of such attacks. General Bennike replied that on at least four different occasions there had been reports of the killing of animals and human beings in these attacks.

**Arab Legion exonerated:** In reply to another question from Mr. Eban, General Bennike said that it was correct that the greatest number of armistice violations by Jordan were contiguous to the area of Israel's greatest population.

Answering the Jordan representative, the General said that "in the light of events since the beginning of this year," attacks carried out by regular Israel forces had become more serious and more frequent. When he was asked by the Jordanian representative about organised attacks by the Arab Legion, the Truce Chief said that "Jordan's regular forces" were condemned for three violations of the armistice agreement, none of which was organised by the Arab Legion.

**Arabs expelled:** General Bennike was asked by Dr. Malik how many Arabs had been expelled from Israel since 1948. His answer, a long one, was that several thousands who had been expelled did not hold Israel identification cards and had been living in Israel illegally.

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## THE ENIGMA OF BEN-GURION

### A POLITICAL CLOSE-UP

In a moving passage, in his letter to the Mapai Central Committee, Ben-Gurion has given us a vivid definition of the "spiritual fatigue" that has caused him to give up the Premiership at this crucial stage in the history of Israel. He found, he said, that he could not work and could not think while he remained at the helm of the Government; he could work and he could think while he was away from it. His recent vacation had proved this to his satisfaction.

★

In this passage of the Premier's farewell letter to his Party lies the real reason for his retirement, although in it Ben-Gurion begs the question: What work is more important to a man with his record than to lead the Government of Israel? What is there more urgent to think about than this task of leading the people of Israel?

Ben-Gurion might have answered these questions by saying that *nothing* is more important to him—provided he were free to lead and able to think while retaining his post as Premier. But he has evidently concluded that his major objectives are not compatible with his continued Premiership.

Why not? Ben-Gurion has been thinking about this for a long time—certainly for more than a year. This is no mere eccentricity, or a permissible *m'shugaas*, of a remarkable man. For let us remember the real Ben-Gurion; he is big enough not to need to be idolised or idealised.

Ahad Ha'am, in his remarkable essay on Moses, divided Jewish leaders into

priests and prophets—the men with the practical bent, the administrators and tacticians of politics, and the single-minded visionaries with their ideal objective on which they would never compromise. In Ben-Gurion there is the almost unique combination of the two; the practical party boss, the shrewd tactician and also the prophet with an almost ruthless single-mindedness.

★

For 17 years, as he has himself explained, since the Peel Commission convinced him in 1936 "that British aid for the Jewish National Home had ended... and that all Zionist policy had to be altered," he has played the dual part of practical priest and visionary prophet. Now he feels he has to give up something; his "spiritual fatigue" has made it impossible for him to continue his double role. He has therefore surrendered his part as priest.

But what does that mean? Why does he feel that at this critical juncture in Israel's existence it is more important for him to devote himself to the long view than to the pressing needs of today and tomorrow?

★

Ben-Gurion, I would say, is not worried about the fundamental strength of Israel today in either the military or the political sphere. He is not terribly interested in economics. But he is concerned deeply and gravely, as he was 17 years ago, with the need of bringing up a new generation of Israelis that will have shed the attributes of Jewry in exile, whether they were acquired in Europe and America, or in the Orient.

He sees Israel as a tiny island in an Islamic ocean stretching from the Maghreb in the West to Pakistan and beyond in the East. There is no immediate danger in this to Israel. A combination of circumstances—the international situation, Arab disunity, weakness and technical backwardness, and Israel's energy—have secured this generation in Israel, and probably also the next. But then the crisis may come.

★

Islam will not remain weak, backward and disunited. It will outnumber Israel many times; it will catch up on its technical handicap—unless Israel can produce a new generation that will be imbued with a deep sense of Zionist idealism in its new form, one that will

produce in Israel a progressive civilisation enriched with the most advanced technical knowledge and skill.

But the foundation for this has to be laid now—it cannot wait. As Premier of a Party-conscious coalition, Ben-Gurion found that there was no way of breaking out of the vicious circle of party and partisan politics. This had already done great damage to the youth of Israel. The best of them were turning away from public life, sickened by the intrigues, the pettiness and the selfishness that was injected into it by the dominant party machines.

★

Unorthodox young men who were unattracted to party interests found themselves frozen out of promotion; Ben-Gurion himself found that he was increasingly isolated and lonely in his position. He had few intimates among the leaders of his Party. It was not that he had political differences. He has denied that himself, and so has Mapai, with an emphasis that has almost aroused fresh doubts.

He simply could not share any longer in the partisan politics that dominated the coalition. They stood in the way of all he was trying to do. Even more, his colleagues could not understand him—the Premier of an overworked Cabinet who had time to translate Spinoza's Ethics into Hebrew and to take Spanish lessons every day at four. They could not understand that Ben-Gurion was trying to break through the hard crust of spiritual isolation that had settled over Israel and Zionism.

★

So much for the prophet. But in Ben-Gurion the priest is never far behind. He is no Mohammed prepared to wait patiently for ten years till others see the rightness of his conception. The master tactician is never altogether absent. His retirement will cause a deep and continuous shock to the political structure dominated by the parties. It will accelerate the discussion and consideration of the issues which he feels should be in the forefront and which coalition politics keep stored away in the political lumber-room. The priest, I would say, has calculated and considered the consequences of the prophet's action.

Ben-Gurion's retirement is not only a challenge to the political leaders of Israel, but also to its people. It is a robust and remarkable attempt to rouse them—and Zionists everywhere—before the future overtakes them.

Jon Kimche.

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# IN THE NEWS

## ALBERT HALL FESTIVAL

### MISS ISRAEL PRESENTED

Starchy formality was absent at the Albert Hall for the International Championship Ball sponsored by the *Jewish Observer and Middle East Review* in aid of the "Friends of Jewish Agricultural Training".

It was essentially a show: colourful, gay and delightful to watch. The President and the Chairman of the Zionist Federation, Mr. Barnett Janner, M.P., and Mr. Janus Cohen, seemed to enjoy the excitement of the competition as much as the large audience that had come from every part of the country. With justice did Mrs. Elsa Bakstansky when making her closing speech in the early hours of Friday exclaim that this was a function with a difference.

Miss Elsa Wells (as she is known to her profession), explained that this was the first occasion that the title "International Championships" was granted by the Official Board to an event of this kind held in London; and that this was the first time in the history of British Ballroom Dancing that a brochure in aid of a charity prepared in connection with an event of this kind had produced £11,000 from advertisements alone.

Peter Morrison, the Hon. President of the Committee, congratulated Mrs. Bakstansky on the originality of her idea



*Lady Reading with Mr. Peter Morrison and Mrs. Elsa Bakstansky distributing the prizes at the Albert Hall.*  
(Copyright: Dance News).

and on the keen Executive Committee which had helped her to implement it.

Many of the audience had intended just to put in an appearance, but they all remained "for the kill" until 2.30 in the morning. The international aspect of the competition was provided by the presence of competing couples from Belgium, France, Denmark, Sweden and Eire. Israel contributed the charming Miss Israel who was presented to the audience, and was musically represented in the *Romance Orientale* composed by Peter Morrison. This was based upon a characteristically Jewish theme. It was played to the audience as the signature tune of the Championship; Geraldo's and Victor Sylvester's bands providing brilliant musical accompaniment.

The *grande finale* of the evening was the presentation of prizes by the Marchioness of Reading. It was a "Zionist victory", she commented in an aside, for the winner, Mr. S. Binick, a foremost exponent of ballroom dancing, is a well-known Zionist.

### 50 YEARS OF PALESTINE BANKING

Fifty years ago, in 1903, the Anglo-Palestine Company began banking operations in Jaffa. Later the Company became the Anglo-Palestine Bank, today known as the Bank Leumi le-Israel.

Established by the Jewish Colonial

Trust while Palestine was still a province of the Ottoman Empire, the Bank originally carried out land purchase, opened an import trade department and negotiated (none too successfully) with the Turkish Government in attempts to obtain concessions.

When it opened, the Company had a capital of £40,000. In the beginning of the 1940's deposits were P£7.6 million; at the end of 1952 deposits were I£146 million, including I£46 million of special Government deposits, and its credit balance in the same period rose from P£4.6 million to I£101 million.

The Anglo-Palestine Bank began to assume the functions of a National Bank when the British administration began to pull out of the country. During the uncertain period before the State was proclaimed it acted as banker and financial agent of the Jewish Agency, and assumed the same functions for the Government of Israel. It now has 42 branches in Israel compared with fourteen in 1949.

The bank holds 70 per cent. of the deposits in Israel and issues some 60 per cent. of all bank credits. It is still, however, a medium for small banking accounts. Nine-tenths of its debit accounts and almost two-thirds of its credit accounts are in amounts up to I£1,000.

(Continued on page 10)



*Mr. Sonny Binick and Miss Sally Brock, the winners of the International Professional Championship.*  
(Copyright: Dance News).



## DOWN THE SINK

"Israel in the Kitchen" at the Embassy Theatre scarcely produces a decent potato *latke*, never mind about a good square meal, writes my colleague E.L. The play assembles a rag-bag of characters whose mode of expression ranges from animal grunts to such expressions of piety as: "God is good, good 'e is," which by sheer reiteration set my nerves screeching with maniacal laughter.

I do not recognise the author's slobbering creatures as anthropoids, let alone Jews, and if grunting in Yiddish is supposed to be funnier than grunting in Latvian (grunting in Slovak is, of course, generally regarded as tragic) then when Israel is in the kitchen again I shall take jolly good care that I'm somewhere else.

A number of talented young people were involved in the production. It is best to let them live it down.

## ENGLISH SETTLEMENT'S AGRICULTURAL PRIZE

Kibbutz Yasur, the English settlement of *Hashomer Hatzair* in Western Galilee, is first in the running for the prize of a Ferguson tractor, offered by the Israel Ministry of Agriculture to the most successful maize farmers in the country, writes Dan Leon from Israel.

The Israeli newspapers *Davar* and *Al Hamishmar* both commented prominently on the outstanding success of the kibbutz in the growing of maize under irrigation.

Meir Weiss, who is responsible for this work, received his agricultural training at the Zionist Federation *hachshara* farm at Bedford, after working in the famous 'coal-mining Kibbutz' of *Hashomer Hatzair* at Stalybridge, in Lancashire.

Kibbutz Yasur, which was established as a stronghold settlement in 1948, is situated in a strategic spot on the vital road from Acre to Safed. It has a population of 120—of whom half are from England—and seventy children. The Kibbutz recently absorbed its first group of Youth Aliya children from all parts of the world.

*Hamazkir writes:*

## NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS

The award of the Nobel prizes for medicine for 1953 to Professor Hans Adolf Krebs, of the Sheffield University, and Dr. Fritz Lipmann, of the Harvard Medical School, brings the total number of Jews who have received these distinctions since they were instituted at the beginning of this century up to twenty-seven. It is rather significant that nearly half of them, namely, thirteen, obtained prizes for medicine, but this is not surprising if we bear in mind that Jews have been serious students and zealous practitioners of the science of medicine from the earliest times, while they did not enjoy the same opportunity of devoting themselves to the other sciences. The first Jew to receive the Nobel prize for medicine was Dr. Paul Ehrlich, in 1908, for his discovery of salvarsan.

Of the other prizes six have been awarded to Jews for physics, four for chemistry, and one for literature. The solitary recipient of

the award for literature was Henri Bergson, whose achievements lay rather in the field of philosophy than in that of creative literature. The twenty-seven Jewish Nobel prize-winners form (so far as I have been able to ascertain) not less than the ten per cent. of the total number of awards made—a remarkable record in view of the fact that the Jews are less than one per cent. of the world's total population. If we also counted as Jews three who had only a Jewish mother but a non-Jewish father (Mechnikov, Heyse, and Niels Bohr) the record would be even more striking.

## MANFRED GEORGE

Hearty congratulations to Manfred George on his sixtieth birthday. His name may convey little or nothing to the majority of Jews in this country, but to the hundreds of thousands of Jews born in Germany or Austria and driven by Hitler to all parts of the world it is a household word. For he is the founder and editor-in-chief of *Aufbau*, the principal German weekly published in the United States. It is a development from a news bulletin that used to be issued many years ago by the "New World Club" in New York. As this Club was mainly Jewish, it would have been tempting for Mr. George (who was Herr Georg in Germany) to convert the bulletin into a purely Jewish paper, but he realised the need for a well-produced journal that would appeal to the large German-speaking world outside Germany and planned and developed *Aufbau* on that basis.

It became a weekly periodical that combined international news with literary and cultural features of particular interest to those familiar with the intellectual atmosphere and outlook of Central Europe.

Before the advent of Hitler, Manfred George was a well-known figure in Zionist circles in Berlin, where he was born, as a novelist and journalist. He wrote a biography of Theodor Herzl in 1932, which may perhaps have been forgotten by now, but of which I am glad to possess a copy in my library. In Berlin he edited a paper called *Tempo* until the beginning of the Nazi régime, when he fled to Prague, then to Paris, and finally to New York. His importance in the German journalistic world has been recognised by the President of the Federal German Republic, Professor Heuss, who has sent him a letter of congratulation and appreciation on his sixtieth birthday.



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*A water tower in Israel*



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# MIDDLE EAST TRADE

## BRITISH BID FOR MARKET BUT ISRAEL LEFT OUT

The story goes that the Sheikh of Kuwait uses part of his £50 million oil royalties to equip the sheikhdom's schools with brand-new typewriters. If the British trade delegation to the Middle East, due to leave in a few days, according to a recent announcement by the President of the Board of Trade, Peter Thorneycroft, is successful, then those typewriters will be British.

And not merely the typewriters, for the delegation's main emphasis will be on the provision of British capital equipment to the sterling-earning, oil-producing countries of the Middle East—primarily Iraq and Kuwait, a Board of Trade spokesman told me.

**Machine Goods for Development:** The aim of the delegation is to explore the possibility of supplying from Britain the goods required for these territories' development plans. For this reason, although the five-man delegation actually only includes representatives from Sir Alexander Gibbs and Partners, consulting engineers, John Laing and Son, contractors, British Celanese, Power Gas Corporation, and Balfour Williamson, merchant shippers, its terms of reference will cover British heavy industry as a whole.

The delegation, which will be away 4—5 weeks, is also going to visit Lebanon and Syria. Both of these countries are sterling-earners through their *entrepot* trade with Iraq and Saudi-Arabia and, in the case of Syria, through trade in cotton and grain. Any trade resulting from the mission's tour will be on a cash and not on a credit basis.

**Currency-Short Israel:** Saudi-Arabia is also to be visited. But not Israel—the reason for this is that the delegation is only interested in territories with large amounts of currency at their disposal, the spokesman told me.

A possible follow-up to the visit will be a British trade fair in Baghdad next year, he added.

**Israel Economic Counsellor's Views:** What relevance has the delegation's tour to the prospects for increased Anglo-Israel trade? This was what I asked Haim Margalit, the new Economic and Financial Counsellor to the Israel Embassy. He has been here a month now, with the furtherance of Anglo-

Israel economic relations as his main task.

The delegation, he told me, had a close, though indirect, relevance to his task. The sterling surpluses which the Arab countries are accumulating are creating new problems for the British economy, and the Bank of England is following these developments with a certain amount of anxiety. If not used to buy sterling goods, they might find their way to countries outside the



*Economic Counsellor Haim Margalit—  
British initiative wanted.*

Sterling Area—to America, for instance, and to Germany, both these countries having become very strong competitors in a market which, until a few years ago, was completely controlled by Great Britain.

The delegation represents an attempt by Great Britain to persuade those Arab countries with large royalties in hand to spend them in this country; or at least, within the Sterling Area, and not in competing areas.

Anxiety so caused adds new emphasis to those already in existence, imposing the necessity for Great Britain to keep on friendly terms with the Arabs.

**Markets Lost to America, Germany:** There is certainly a great theoretical willingness to expand trade with Israel too. People know very well that Israel also has a large currency revenue and represents a considerable purchasing power. In Israel too, Great Britain has lost markets to America, and Germany is also appearing as an additional competitor. It certainly would be worthwhile for Great Britain to find ways and

means to appropriate a part of the profitable trade for itself. But the theoretical willingness to do this is inhibited by Arab pressure, as exercised through all kinds of threats, and now through the threat of diverting their sterling income too.

Nothing would be more welcome to Great Britain than to see an end to Arab-Israel hostility, which would give it a free hand to trade with both groups.

Granted the fulfilment of these political conditions, how could Anglo-Israel commercial relations best be aided, I asked the Economic and Financial Counsellor.

**What Britain Could Do:** Israel, he replied, is already spending much more sterling within the Sterling Area than it earns. By redistributing its purchasing power, it may direct still more currency into this Area.

If the British Government were really to become interested in expanding trade with Israel, it would have to contribute to the solution of the problems of how to equip Israel with more sterling. There are three ways of achieving this:

- ¶ by taking increased imports from Israel;
- ¶ by the long-term financing of trade, with credits extending over 5-10 years;
- ¶ by allowing capital transfer for investments in Israel. This was the most important method of all.

**Investment for Expansion:** Citrus products and by-products could serve both as expanded Israel exports to the United Kingdom and as opportunities for U.K. investment, Mr. Margalit said. Given this backing, he thought Israel production in this field could be doubled.

The export of tomato-juice, plywood and other products from Israel to the United Kingdom could also be greatly increased. The Israel organic and inorganic chemical industry, based on potash and oil-products, also offered excellent opportunities to the British investor which could benefit both countries, Mr. Margalit said.

He concluded: Great Britain has lost many economic positions throughout the Middle East countries. Israelis would welcome it if Great Britain were to try to get some of them back. They are certainly prepared to help in this respect, as they did during the Mandatory period with considerable success for the British Empire. But, of course, Great Britain has to show the initiative in this regard.



# EGYPT

## MILITANT BROTHERS

### BREACH WITH NEGUIB?

Almost three years ago Sheikh Hassan Ahmed El Bakhoury, now a Minister in General Neguib's Cabinet, told an astonished judge: "I bring you the office of the Supreme Guide of the Moslem Brotherhood!" That judge was Sayid Hassan El Hodeiby whose emissaries are speeding today to distant Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Libya, to Lebanon, Syria and Jordan stirring the slumbering body of the Brotherhood into action.

The story began one warm evening in Cairo not so long ago, reports Robert Gee, our Special Middle East Correspondent.

**The Elections:** On October 8, uninvited callers were scanned suspiciously and invariably turned away from the doors of the Cairo Headquarters of the Moslem Brotherhood, while 140 members of the Founders' Committee settled down for their annual meeting in the spacious marquees erected on the flat roof.

Midnight and then the dawn came and went. Then, after 13 hours, it was

all over. The *Ikhwan* had a new Board of Guidance—the twelve men headed by Hassan El Hodeiby whose word will be heard and obeyed for the next two years by all members of the Moslem Brotherhood. When at last the first reliable list of the new Board of Guidance was published in Cairo it contained startling revelations which made the Western and Arab politicians sit up.

El Hodeiby's opponents and advocates of an alliance with General Neguib have been removed from the Board. Militant Brothers have been installed in their stead.

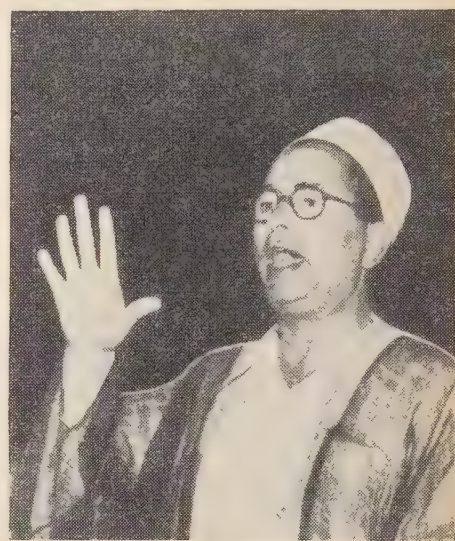
**The Policy:** Hassan El Hodeiby's appointment as the Supreme Guide in 1950 was ill-received by Brothers who had prior claim to that office. The opposition group was led by Abdel Kader Awdah, Hilmi El Maniawi and Saleh Ashmawi. It included also the influential Sheikh Ghazali and others.

The battle was waged behind locked doors but in September last year Saleh Ashmawi brought the dispute into the open. In March this year he spoke openly for an alliance with General

Neguib and said in the Cairo Weekly *Rose El Youssef*: "To have Hodeiby in office means to go on sitting on the fence!" (See *Jewish Observer & Middle East Review*, March 27, 1953).

Now Saleh Ashmawi and Sheikh Ghazali have been removed from the Board; Abdel Kader Awdah remains but without the important office he has held hitherto, while among the new members none is more notable than Sheikh El Farghali, a staunch opponent of the British in Egypt and leader of the Brothers in the Suez Canal Zone.

**Brotherhood Offensive:** The Moslem Brotherhood is again on the offensive and as new fragments are added every



Bakhoury—Brotherhood's patron in the Cabinet.

day to the jigsaw puzzle of their policy there emerges the following picture:

**In Egypt,** no fraternisation with General Neguib's Government. But full co-operation will be maintained with the Revolutionary Leaders in matters of common policy: securing the evacuation of the British from the Canal Zone, by force if other means fail, and raising the standard of living of the population.

**In Syria,** the "keep out of politics and get stronger" order has been operating for some time. In fact Dr. Mustafa Al Sibai, the Syrian Preceptor, announced that the Brotherhood had "finally decided to quit politics and confine its activities to religious, social and moral activities".

**In Jordan,** the main impact of the renewed activity of the Moslem Brotherhood is directed against Britons in the Arab Legion and British influences in the country. A huge demonstration staged in Amman on October 16 (after the Quibya incident), and open criticism levelled at Britain by Mohamed Abdel Rahman Khalifa, the Jordanian Preceptor of the Brotherhood, are some of the visible signs of the agitation being carried on.

**In North Africa,** a drive is on to boost up the meagre ranks of the Brotherhood which in the meantime gives an all-round support to the Moroccan "Istiqlal" (Independence) Party, the Association of the Ulema of Algeria and the Liberation Movement of Algeria.

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# BOOKS

## MODERN HEBREW LITERATURE OF ISRAEL — (1)

By JUDD L. TELLER

(By arrangement with the "Middle East Journal," Washington)

Newspaper kiosks and bookshops everywhere in Israel display a profusion of small, paper-covered books, often no more than oversize pamphlets. This is the new Israel literature—short stories, novels and poetry—produced by young people in their twenties and thirties, the post-World War II generation, writing in the ancient Hebrew language now undergoing its 'nth renovation since the beginning of its modern renaissance in the eighteenth century.

Israel Hebrew faces the exciting task of accommodating the needs and satisfying the wants of a contemporary people who challenge it to match the vigour, solace and service hitherto provided them by scores of mother-tongues, representative of diverse cultures. In the process of accommodation the language sometimes tends to bright colours, like a middle-aged woman determined to hold her young lover. The student of Biblical or Mishnaic Hebrew, or, for that matter, of the relatively recent literature created by Eastern European Jewry in the two centuries which terminated in the 1920's, may be baffled by the bizarre slang of the newest Israel Hebrew literature. But at no time does it constitute a barrier to intelligibility. After a few weeks residence in Israel, any student of Hebrew will have made his adjustments, if not his peace, with the country's use of the language. The newcomer is no more baffled than the older Hebrew writers residing in Palestine by the weird words and syntaxes grafted to the language by the crop of new writers.

\* \* \*

Actually, one cannot speak of an ancient and a modern Hebrew. Although the language has grown and been enriched since its distant beginnings, at no time in its development has it reached an impasse of unintelligibility such as prevails between Chaucerian and contemporary English. The explanation for this is simple. There has been incessant continuity in literary Hebrew precisely because the language had for many centuries been the written, not the spoken, tongue of the Jews. This condition precluded a clash between the language of the Book and the language of the marketplace, such as one finds in Arabic. When

Zionists, not too long ago, restored Hebrew to its status as a spoken tongue, the vocabulary for daily speech had to be lifted straight out of the Book.

Although Israel's press is polyglot, its books with few exceptions are all published in Hebrew. The production pace



Bialik—forerunner of modern Hebrew poetry.

of original works cannot keep up with readers' demands, nor can their quality sustain the interest of the hard-core of omnivorous readers who whetted their tastes on many languages. Consequently, the major proportion of each year's book output consists of translations from the finest and the best-selling in other lands.

Israel is the sanctuary of expatriate writers, expatriates from their language as well as from their lands—men and women with varying reputations for the private vocabularies they had mined in Yiddish, French, Hungarian, Russian, Czech and German. They find it impossible to hack their way through once again, to a style of their own in Hebrew. They continue to write in their accustomed tongues, and their works, *in toto* or in fragments, are published in Hebrew, often before they appear in the original tongue.

Czech-German novelist Max Brod, friend of Franz Kafka and editor of his diaries, has lived in Israel for some two decades and has an intelligent man's command of the language. Yet, he still writes in German. One of the reasons, it is believed, that caused novelist Arnold Zweig to feel unhappy in Israel

and eventually to resettle in Germany was his inability to acquire Hebrew. Although the late German-Jewish refugee poetess Elsa Lasker Schuler wrote verse in a syntax that had a Biblical ring, she could never learn Hebrew in her long residence in Jerusalem.

A unique exception, among literary men, is Aryeh Ludwig Straus, who had begun to acquire some reputation in Germany as a promising poet when Nazi events forced him to resettle in Palestine. There he undertook the task, formidable for an adult poet, of mastering Hebrew. He succeeded beyond all expectations. Although his output has been slender, the quality of his poetry places him in the front ranks of the newest Hebrew poets as a pure lyricist. It is interesting, however, that he still retains his German first name, Ludwig, at a time when it is almost a mandatory fashion for men in the public eye to Hebraize even their family names.

\* \* \*

Contemporary Israel Hebrew writers may be roughly divided into two categories: the men and women in their middle years and older, almost all of whom are European-born, although they may have been living in Palestine for decades; and those under middle age,

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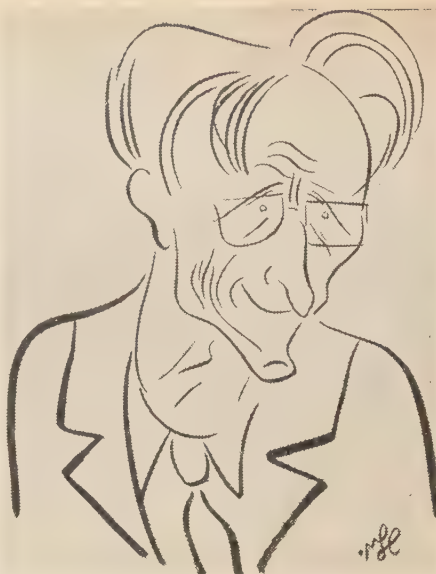
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most of whom have either been born in Israel, or brought up there from childhood. Of course, there are exceptions, such as Nathan Alterman, fifty-two year old poet, educated in Tel Aviv's Herzliah High School, and sixty-six year old Judah Burla, Palestine-born and the very first Sephardic writer of modern Hebrew fiction.

\* \* \*

The two groups are dissimilar both in their use of language and their view of Jewry and Israel. Yet many of the dissimilar attitudes were produced in the young, unknowingly, by their predecessors. The older writers all are Zionists, and it is Zionism that brought them to Palestine and to Israel. The others, the



Uri Zvi Greenberg, regarded by many as the most important living poet writing in Hebrew.

*sabra* writers are, for the most part, contemptuous of Zionism, and yet this contempt is the indirect product of Zionist indoctrination.

Zionism has always maintained that life in the Diaspora so gravely imbalanced Jewish psyche that only life in a sovereign state could restore equilibrium to the Jew. Some hoped that on his ancestral soil the Jew would become like other people. Others within the camp of political Zionism were not interested in equating the Jew with others, but rather in providing for his brilliant intellectualism the sun-space denied him in the Diaspora. Zionism could be accepted even by self-hating Jews as a more dignified way of assimilation—assimilation through a sovereignty paralyzing other peoples.

\* \* \*

Thus, there has run through Zionism the dichotomy of *ahavat Israel*, love for the Jewish people, and of self-contempt; most embraced Zionism for the first reason, though some embraced it for the second reason. Since Zionism's emphasis has always been on the more perfect Jew whom only a sovereign Jewish society can produce, small wonder that the *sabra* grew up a confirmed believer in his own superiority over other Jews. That being the case, the new Israeli literature, produced by the *sabra*, celebrates the *sabra* and is almost oblivious of all other Jews. There are exceptions to this, of course, such as the novelist S. Yizhar, the best stylist among the new crop of writers.

The *sabra's* attitude towards Jews outside Israel also has been determined in some measure by much of the Hebrew literature of the past century or more. This bellicose, combatant literature was engaged in a struggle against the rabbinic-patriarchal authority which ruled ghetto life, and against the revelation of patriarchalist tendencies in *Hassidism*, the religious democratic revolution which impeached absolutist rabbinical rule.

Combating these conditions, Peretz Smolenskin, Mende Mocher Sefarim and other writers of the nineteenth century savagely exaggerated the defects and drew merciless and ruthless caricatures of Jewish society. They were, as regards intent, the Upton Sinclairs, Sinclair Lewises and Theodore Dreisers of Jewish ghetto life. Just as the Kremlin has used the savage critical portraits of America by these writers to detract and traduce the United States among those unfamiliar with it, so can the Hebrew literature of that particular period serve to present a distorted picture of Jewish ghetto life to those unfamiliar with it.

\* \* \*

To the *sabra*, the life of Jews a half century ago or more is alien. He has been told that it was a humiliating existence, and finds horrible confirmation of its "sordidness" in the older Hebrew writing. He refuses to identify his own literature with that created under such shocking conditions. Abraham Kareev, poet and incisive critic, has charged in a recent book that the older Hebrew literature, particularly its fiction, has left a legacy of hatred for the ghetto Jew.

(To be continued)

## MORALS

### AND PSEUDO-MORALS

THE FOOLISH IMMORTALS, by Paul Gallico. (Michael Joseph, 12/6d.)

Mr. Paul Gallico has a gentle lyrical gift which in his best known story, "The Snow Goose," touched the imagination of a vast number of readers. In his other writings too he has shown that his heart is in the right place.

"The Foolish Immortals" is, it would seem, an attempt to enlarge his sentiments into a philosophy and anyone who finds generous moral instincts attractive will wish the attempt had been successful. It goes without saying that "The Foolish Immortals" is well-meaning; it is therefore unfortunate that it is also a failure.

Mr. Gallico is here concerned with some terrifyingly powerful obsessions—

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greed, power, the fear of death. He approaches them, I am sorry to say, with the coy morality of a provincial Sunday school teacher.

The story is concerned with the search for an elixir of life by Hannah Bascombe, the elderly mistress of a vast commercial empire. Her fear of death is so marked as to have become a feature of note in the gossip columns of the American press. Scenting what the Americans call a "sucker," Joe Sears, an unscrupulous Hollywood scriptwriter, approaches Miss Bascombe with a theory that the ancient Fathers of the Old Testament lived to a great age because they were in possession of a secret of life which probably still resided somewhere in Palestine. He enlists the aid of another adventurer, a mysterious young Jew named Ben-Isaac, whom he represents as a member of an ancient tribe who have lived unchanged "since the beginning of recorded time" in the valley of Merom and who possess the secret of the mysterious elixir.

A strange mother-son relationship springs up between Miss Bascombe and Ben-Isaac, and a triangular erotic friendship between Ben-Isaac, Sears and Miss Bascombe's lady secretary. During their pilgrimage to Palestine, these entanglements develop complications that have little relationship to the basic situation of the novel.

Ben-Isaac is clearly a blurred but symbolic figure. In the Holy land one encounters an even foggier relative of his, Dr. Nathaniel Levi, who is intended to symbolise the prophet as he habitually ascends a mountain to talk directly to God. It is Dr. Levi who is instrumental in leading them to Beit Jebel, the Village of the Patriarchs on Mount Hermon. There Hannah Bascombe is given a casket said to contain fruit from the Tree of Life, the substance which had nourished the Patriarchs and made them live for many centuries.

At this point the expected happens. Miss Bascombe climbs the mountain, has a spiritual experience, returns the casket, and dies. The crook, Joe Sears, undergoes a tortuous redemption and marries the lady secretary. Ben-Isaac settles in Israel.

The themes that Mr. Gallico has chosen in this book have engaged the attention of major writers, rarely with success, never with so neatly wrapped a "solution." This flirting with morality and metaphysics has done only harm to an author whose talent is slight, poetic but effective in its proper sphere.

Emanuel Litvinoff

(BOOKS continued p. 16)

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## FALL OF HAIFA

LEBANON PARADISE, by Edward Atiyah; 256 pp. (Peter Davies), 12s. 6d.

This is an interesting, well-written slightly romanticised story of the aftermath to the capture of Haifa by the Haganah, and how this has shaped the lives of some well-to-do Arabs and refugees from Palestine. The picture of the unfeeling rich Lebanese, the awakening of the youthful rich Arab girl, and, even more so, the *affaire* of the Moslem wife who sheds the veil for the first time, provide a social criticism drawn by a tender and understanding pen.

But to me, naturally, the major interest was Atiyah's description of the "fall" of Haifa. At that time he was in charge of Arab propaganda in London and I was understandably curious to see how he introduced the "Haifa story" into the book. Let me say at once that Atiyah has been remarkably fair, frank and honest. He has eschewed propaganda; he presents both sides and leaves the reader to judge. One point about the Arab loss of Haifa deserves special mention. Atiyah's characters insist that they were betrayed not only by their leaders, but also by the British. They

avow that the British told the Jews but not the Arabs that they proposed to evacuate the major part of Haifa. I always thought this charge was only an Arab excuse or Arab propaganda. I now know that this Arab version is correct; they were *not* told.

Jon Kimche.

## REFUGEE PROBLEM

THE REFUGEE IN THE POST-WAR WORLD, by Jacques Vernant; 827 pp. Index, Tables (Allen & Unwin), 45s.

If it were within my power, I would forbid every Zionist speaker and every Arab propagandist—British or otherwise—to discuss the Arab refugee problem until he had read this remarkable book, or at least the relevant chapters on Jews, Israel and the Arab states. The author, Jacques Vernant, is the Secretary-General of the French equivalent of Chatham House and he has succeeded in reproducing the informative character of the publications of the Royal Institute of International Affairs without losing the gallic feeling for style and presentation.

Part of this work was originally intended as a Report for the United Nations Geneva office. Towards the end of 1951 it was circulated to member governments but was withdrawn from circulation after protests from the Governments of Egypt, Syria and the Lebanon.

The present Report is almost twice as long and contains among many other invaluable items of information, the first fully documented account of the position of foreigners, refugees and Palestine Arabs in Egypt, Syria and the Lebanon. M. Vernant wisely sketches this against the background of social and economic difficulties.

Some not generally known aspects of Arab policy are revealed. Syria is the most liberal Arab country in its treatment of Palestine refugees—that is apart from Jordan which is excluded from this study. Lebanon's laws and regulations are the least liberal—partly because of her own unemployment and emigration problems.

There is a valuable and

objective study of assimilation in Israel and an enlightening history of the post-war Jewish refugee problem. But this is not a book that can be summarised; it has to be read. S.L.

## FOR CHILDREN

THE FIRST BOOK OF ISRAEL, by Nora Benjamin Kubie (Franklin Watts New York).

This is a pleasantly illustrated guide to the history, politics and day-to-day life of Israel, but I suspect it will bore children. As a first book of Israel, it is entirely too sophisticated for the under-seven group and children above this age, who may be expected to grasp this terminology, prefer information presented clearly and directly or with true imagination.

Nora Benjamin Kubie clearly means well and has some experience, it would seem, in producing pleasant propaganda for children. But children with their enormous curiosity and their endless appetite for facts are healthily resistant to propaganda. They are not, unfortunately immune; but if a genuine interest in Israel is to be cultivated it will require a less ambiguous approach than we find here. E.L.

CHANUKAH HIGHLIGHTS, edited by Misha Louvish, J.N.F. Festival Series.

*Chanukah Highlights* is a handbook for teachers and youth leaders, published by the Youth Department of the Jewish National Fund in Jerusalem. It is an anthology of poems, playlets, games and articles on the meaning of the Chanukah Festival and its historical origins. There is an interesting excerpt from the writings of Maimonides on the Festival.

## REFERENCE

"EUROPEAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK, 5714," Edited by Hermann Bary (Union-Druckerei und Verlagsanstalt GmbH).

It is not easy to discover the purpose of this Year Book. It is true it gives addresses of Jewish organisations (mainly West European, and also North African) but its Who's Who mainly duplicates the Anglo-Jewish Year Book and can scarcely therefore be described as indispensable. It gives one the impression that its most important function is to carry advertisements of German business and industrial enterprises, and unless a future issue can clearly establish another function the book scarcely seems worthwhile as a work of reference. P.M.

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# JEWISH AFFAIRS

## ZIONIST FEDERATION BLACKPOOL ZIONIST GROUP REVIVED

Blackpool's Jewish community, part and parcel of the Diaspora and of the Jewish nation, must pursue with vigour its Zionist work, which was so important if Jews wished the State to survive, improve and develop, said Mr. E. K. Brunert, Lancashire Regional Secretary of the Zionist Federation when he addressed a meeting of representative Jewish organisations in connection with the reforming of the Blackpool Men's Zionist Society.

He came, he said, to ask the Blackpool Jewish community to re-organise their Society from a cultural and educational point of view so that they should be able in the future to discuss the problem of Israel between themselves in debates and meetings to keep themselves informed about Israel. By being informed, and keeping informed, about the problems and necessities of the young State one automatically becomes an important link in the chain of Zionist organisations throughout the world.

"That link must never be broken, but the apathy which we experience in Blackpool endangers the continuity," Mr. Brunert said. "By debating Israel's problems, by backing the State spiritually and culturally, you will gain important knowledge which will help you to put the case for Israel."

## KING SOLOMON'S MINES

Under the title of "King Solomon's Copper Mines" an interesting survey of mining activities and research in Israel was given by Mr. Asher Braunfeld, an Israel geologist, when he addressed the Clapton Zionist Society last week. He described the finding of copper in the ancient King Solomon's mines, and said that this site—in the extreme south of the Negev—could prove of great importance economically and strategically, as a gateway to the Middle East.

Mr. I. E. Gilbey presided.

## ANGLO-JEWISH ASSOCIATION

### MOVE TO REJOIN BOARD OF DEPUTIES FAILS

A motion by Mr. Edward F. Iwi that the Anglo-Jewish Association should take steps to rejoin the Board of Deputies in order to bring about greater unity in the Anglo-Jewish community "and to check the disruptive forces which weaken it from within," was defeated by 23 votes to 7 at an A.J.A. Council meeting on Tuesday.

Mr. Iwi said that the Board was the only democratic forum in which the A.J.A. could state its views to the Jewish community. Since the Association had withdrawn from the Board, Israel had emerged as a State and if they returned they would go back to a situation which was totally changed. The whole outlook of Jewish communities throughout the world had been fundamentally altered by that event.

"We must try to mould public opinion where it is made—on the floor of the Deputies," Mr. Iwi said. "We must not shirk our duties to the community merely because we are a minority, perhaps an unpopular minority." The motion was opposed by Mr. Neville Laski and other speakers and the Hon. Ewen Montagu, President of the A.J.A., said that the Executive and Honorary Officers had considered the matter and were unanimously opposed to rejoining the Deputies at the present moment. A.J.A. members were represented on the Board individually through their synagogues and other constituent bodies. In view of the present position in the Board, it was felt that the work of the A.J.A. would be stultified if it rejoined.

Earlier, differences of opinion in the Association over Mr. Montagu's statement on Quibya were reflected in the Presidential address, in which Mr. Montagu sought to justify the terms of his statement.

His references to the Quibya incident on Tuesday were stronger in their con-

demnation, and the use of the term "deliberate outrage" and similar expressions raised protests and counter-protests during the meeting. But in general Mr. Montagu rejected the criticism that his previous statement had not been sufficiently condemnatory. "I am wholly impenitent," he said. "I advisedly did not issue a statement dealing with the outrages because we must be careful to avoid giving the impression that the Anglo-Jewish community are in any way responsible for the actions of Israel." He still held the view that it was important that public opinion should force the United Nations to deal with the Israel-Arab border situation and general state of tension before it led to a conflagration.

## HEBREW UNIVERSITY BIRMINGHAM FRIENDS RAISE FUNDS

When members of the Birmingham group of the Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem met for their fourth annual dinner at the Queen's Hotel in Birmingham, they raised more than £800 for the Israel centre of learning and promises of help received will probably bring the total to £1,000.

Mr. S. P. Abrams presided, and the toast of the University of Jerusalem was supported by Dr. Leo Baeck, Professor Norman Bentwich, formerly Professor of International Relations in the university, and the Rev. Chaim Pearl, Jewish minister in Birmingham.

The chairman spoke of the paucity of educational as of natural resources in Israel and said that both were essential if the country was to be brought to the social and economic level which its inhabitants and well-wishers desired it to attain.

Professor Bentwich said the university had now six Faculties and nearly 3,000 students, and in the academic year beginning next month departments of pharmacy and dentistry were to be added.

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All announcements in this section are strictly prepaid and must be received by the first post Tuesday morning.

**PUBLICATIONS**

**"LABOUR ISRAEL,"** Mapam Journal. For Zionism, Socialism, World Peace. Annual Sub. 4/6d. from Mishmar Publications Ltd., 37 Broadhurst Gardens, N.W.6.

**TRADE NOTICES**

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**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**Saturday, 14th November**

**NORTH LONDON Z.S.** 62 Montague Road, E.8. Extraordinary Members' Meeting to decide on the suggested merger with the Dalston Z.S. In the chair: L. Resnick, Esq., 7 p.m.

**STAMFORD HILL & DISTRICT Z.S.** Zion House, 75 Cazenove Road, N.16. Card and Games Evening. Tickets 3s. including refreshments. 8 p.m.

**Sunday, 15th November**

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE (N.W.)** 47 Ludlow Way, N.2. ('Bus 102 Golders Green to Market Place.) "Philately," a talk by Mr. G. Barnovitch. 7.45 p.m.

**Monday, 16th November**

**HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB Z.S.** 30 Church Mount, N.2 (by courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Sefton). Address by Comdr. F. Ashe Lincoln, Q.C., on: "The World Jewish Congress, 1953, and the Question of Dual Loyalties." In the chair: A. Kramer, Esq., LL.B. 8.15 p.m.

**Tuesday, 17th November**

**NORTH FINCHLEY & DISTRICT Z.S.** 84 Holden Road, N.12 (by courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Franklin). Symposium, on: "Jewish Day Schools," with Mr. J. J. Cherns, Mr. Woolf Perry, Mr. Henry Shaw and Mr. Geoffrey Stalbow, B.A.(Hons.). In the chair: Rev. C. I. Shine, B.A. 8.15 p.m.

**Wednesday, 18th November**

**WEST LONDON Z.S.** Communal Hall, 71 Brook Green, W.6. Symposium on: "Why are we still Zionists?" Those taking part: Mr. C. C. Aronsfeld, Mr. Harry Myer and Mr. Alic Nathan. In the chair: The Rev. S. Venitt. 8 p.m.

**Thursday, 19th November**

**EDGWARE Z.S.** Synagogue Hall, Mowbray Road, Edgware. Brains Trust with: Miss B. J. Barwell, Mrs. Janus Cohen, M.A., Mr. A. Kramer, LL.B. and Mr. P. Williams, B.Sc. Question Master. Mr. Ronald Fletcher, LL.B.

**ISRAEL STUDENTS****JOINT RECEPTION WITH LONDON JEWISH STUDENTS**

King's College Students' Union was crowded with Israel and London Jewish students at a Reception jointly organised by the Universities' Zionist Council and the London Council of Jewish Students. Mr. Theodore Bikel, the Israel actor, entertained. The reception ended with Israel dances.

Mr. Joseph Agasi, on behalf of the Israel students, said that he hoped that it would be only the first of a series of functions where Israeli and Jewish students in this country would get together, and contribute to better understanding between students.

He also invited London students to the newly opened club-room of the Israel students at Zion House, Eton Avenue.

## Remember the Children on JEWISH CHILD'S DAY



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**CALENDAR**

(Times given are G.M.T.)

Sabbath begins Friday, November 13, at 4 p.m.  
Readings from the Pentateuch Genesis xxviii.10-xxxii.3.  
Readings from the Prophets Hosea xi.7-xii.12.  
Sabbath ends Saturday, November 14, at 4.57 p.m.

**VOICE OF ZION**

Deduct one hour for G.M.T.  
Wavelength 33.3m.

**Sunday, 15th November**

9.15 p.m. News. 9.22 p.m. "Personal Column"—Walter Eytan. 9.30 p.m. "The Jerusalem Forum": Questionmaster: Ted Lurie (from the Touring Club, Jerusalem).

**Monday, 16th November**

9.15 p.m. News. 9.22 p.m. Newsreel, including Economic Review, by Avner Hovné. 9.45 p.m. Music from "Conquest of the Desert" Exhibition Concert.

**Tuesday, 17th November**

9.15 p.m. News. 9.25 p.m. "In the Country" by Paula Arnold. 9.30 p.m. "Zionist Review"—A. Super. 9.45 p.m. "The Songs We Sing"—4; by Shlomo Hoffman.

**Wednesday, 18th November**

9.15 p.m. News. 9.25 p.m. Agricultural Review by Michael Noam. 9.30 p.m. "From East to West"—Musical Greetings. 9.45 p.m. "The Week's News"—Jack Alexander.

**Thursday, 19th November**

9.15 p.m. News. 9.22 p.m. Newsreel. 9.35 p.m. Yehuda Wahl's 1st Symphony played by the Kol Yisrael Orchestra.

**Friday, 20th November**

9.15 p.m. Readings for Shabbat Vayishlach: Talk by Uri Ephrat. 9.25 p.m. News. 9.30 p.m. "The Land of Israel"—1; by C. Ataron and M. Louvish. 9.45 p.m. "Our House"—with Michael and Martha Elkins.

**Saturday, 21st November**

9.15 p.m. Shavua Tov: News; Programme Highlights. 9.25 p.m. Israel tunes arranged by Yochanan Zarai. 9.35 p.m. "The Week in the Knesset." 9.50 p.m. Melaveh Malka: Cantor Leo Rosenbluth. 10 p.m. Talmud Lesson: Rabbi Yaakov Herzog. (In conjunction with the Jewish Agency's Dept. of Religious Education).



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# JPA-JNF NEWS

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## TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF JEWISH NATIONAL FUND OPEN SESSION HEARS GESTETNER, ELATH, COHEN, GOITEIN

The twenty-ninth Annual Conference of the Jewish National Fund opened last Saturday evening at the Savoy Hotel, London, before a packed gathering representing all facets of the Zionist Movement in Great Britain. Mr. Sigmund Gestetner, president of the Fund, who only 48 hours previously had returned from Jerusalem where he had attended Prime Minister Ben-Gurion's economic conference, opened the proceedings, while the Israel Ambassador represented the State of Israel. The retiring Israel Minister Plenipotentiary in Washington, Mr. David Goitein, delivered the customary visitor's address.

**Messages:** Among the messages of good wishes received and read by Mr. Michael Sacher, the hon. treasurer, were two from the kibbutzim of Kfar Hanassi and Lavee, settlements where Jewish pioneers from this country preponderate. Other messages were from Dr. Abraham Granott, the Chief Rabbi, the Haham, and Dr. Selig Brodetsky. Or-

ganisations sending greetings included the Board of Deputies, the Jewish Agency, the Zionist Federation, the Federation of Women Zionists, the Mizrachi Federation, Poale Zion, Mizrachi Women's Organisation, World Jewish Congress and the Zionist Revisionist Organisation. Expressions of solidarity were also conveyed on behalf of Youth bodies.

The president made special reference to the presence on the platform of Mr. F. Bolle, president of the Jewish National Fund in Holland, and the Rev. J. K. Goldbloom—"that grand old man of Zionism." He further welcomed the attendance of the Israel Press Delegation now visiting this country as guests of the Foreign Office, and with permission of the Conference he sent telegrams of goodwill for the speedy recovery from illness to Dr. Gaon and Professor Brodetsky, and congratulations to Lord Samuel on the occasion of his 83rd birthday.

### ELATH ON BASIC DUTIES

"To fight for a state is a much easier task than to build a state," declared the Israel Ambassador. What impressed him most in this conference was its sense of contact with the English kibbutzim in Israel. He spoke of the deep conviction over-riding all else which permeated the activities of the Jewish National Fund that they were all engaged in a great ideal.

"Remember those basic things," he concluded. "Remember the sacred place of the Blue Box in our modern history and send your children to us in Israel." Later, Mr. Elath paid warm tribute to generous devotion with which Sigmund Gestetner conducted the affairs of the Jewish National Fund and, amidst great acclaim, wished him many more years of active leadership.

**Reply to anti-Israel Charges:** The Rev. Dr. A. Cohen devoted his speech to a reply to the widespread charges against

(Continued on page 20)



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# JNF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Israel now being made in this country and elsewhere. He quoted from the Torah: "All that happened to the Patriarchs happened also to their descendants." This reminded him that the Philistines told Isaac: "The waters you are using are on *our* land." Such charges have been characteristic of history. The present crisis regarding the Huleh was due to resentment at what the Jews were doing on hitherto disease-ridden tract legally purchased.

Referring to recent attacks against Israel, Dr. Cohen regarded them as shameful exploitation of the miseries of half-a-million tragic human beings for political purposes.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

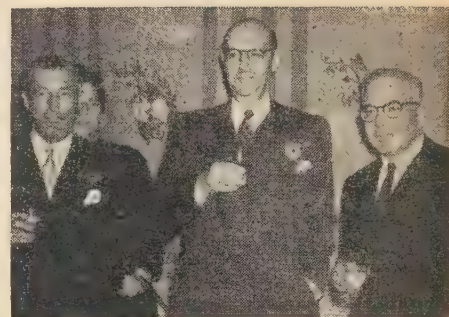
In his presidential statement, Mr. Gestetner spoke of the dedication at Rehovot of Yad Weizmann and called upon the assembly to rise in silent tribute to the memory of the first President of Israel who had died just one year previously. He was full of admiration for the pronouncements of Prime Minister Ben-Gurion at the great conference he had just attended. He was most impressed when Mr. Ben-Gurion had told them: "You who attend this conference have obligations to your individual countries of residence, to the Jewish people as a whole and to the entire human race." The Prime Minister emphasised that his Government had sought peace at various times with Transjordan, Syria and Egypt. Although contact had been made, Israel's efforts had been disappointed because the Great Powers, who alone could order the Arabs to negotiate, had not done so.

**Food: A Comparison:** While insisting that the Jewish National Fund is a non-political body, and in this lay its strength, Mr. Gestetner underlined that these facts had to be known to put current problems and endeavours into their correct context. Despite the tremendous strain of security costs, Israel now produced fifty per cent of her own food requirements as compared with twenty per cent four years ago, when the population was so much smaller.

Specifically addressing the United Nations, Mr. Gestetner said amid approval: "In my view progress such as we have observed in the Huleh area has never been made in any other part of the world in such a short time. Israel has been told to stop the work. If the use of one's natural resources to increase prosperity is stopped, by strategic arguments, the nations of the world must think again." This was putting the clock back, and he was confident an order to resume operations would soon be received.

**New Director:** Speaking in a more personal vein, he thanked all his colleagues for their faithful collaboration during the past year. Mr. Michael Sacher as treasurer was revealing qualities of true leadership, and he spoke in praise of the J.N.F. Administrative Committee and its honorary officers. He officially welcomed Mr. Lewis Harris, the newly-appointed director of the Fund and paid a warm tribute to the activities of the retiring director, Mr. Max Weiner for his achievements.

**Goitein's Address:** Introducing the guest speaker, Mr. Gestetner described Mr. Goitein as a Londoner who many years before had made his home in



*Mr. David Goitein shown with the president and Mr. S. Miller of Glasgow.*

Palestine, and had risen to the highest offices of the State. He had been Israel's Minister to South Africa and later Minister Plenipotentiary in Washington. He was shortly to take a place in the Supreme Court.

Describing his impressions as an Israeli who had spent much of the past four years out of the country, Mr. Goitein said the transformation of the bare rocks and deserts into a green countryside was remarkable. Israel was now faced with many-sided difficulties, and he underlined the importance of everyone of his hearers taking upon himself the responsibility of putting Israel and the Jewish point of view to all with whom he might come into contact. Alone, Israel could not hope to overcome her problems; together with world Jewry there was little she could not achieve.

## NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

### SUNDAY MORNING SESSION

The second session of the Conference opened with the re-election of Sigmund Gestetner and Michael Sacher as president and honorary treasurer for a further year, and the confirmation of the election of the following vice-presidents: B. Bard, S. J. Birn, H. Burstein, E. Chanan, J. Rosser Chinn, I. Cohen, E. A. Colman, S. Ellis, S. Feld, J. C. Gilbert, B. B. Landau, Rev. I. Levy, J. Lowenthal, Dr. A. P. Magonet, A. Margulies, C. Molen, H. Morrison, A. B. Olivestone, W. Perry, I. J. Pomson, Lady Reading, Rabbi Kopul Rosen, Rev. A. Rosenfeld, S. Sabel, M. Salmon, S. Solomon, Cllr. H. Stern, J. Tarlo, Mrs. I. Wolfson and S. Zilesnick, all of London. S. I. Applebaum, H. Black, M. Brostoff, Mrs. A. Bursk, A. A. Collins, Louis Davis, H. Elman, D. Fox, D. Fraenkel, I. Freedman, M. Glassman, J. Goldstone, M.



*Ambassador Elath addressing the open session. On the platform may be seen: Mr. B. Janner, M.P., president of the Zionist Federation, Rev. J. K. Goldbloom, Dr. A. Cohen, president of the Board of Deputies, Mr. M. Weiner, Mme. Elath, Mr. M. Sacher, Mr. D. Goitein and Mr. L. Harris.*



# JNF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Gorfunkle, Mrs. V. Gould, S. B. Green, M. B. Links, E. Raffles, E. Sampson, Mrs. M. Troubman, Prof. J. Weingreen and H. Woolfson, all for the provinces.

The conference then broke up into a number of committees whose recommendations for discussion in full assembly and for consideration of the Administrative Committee and hon. officers appear below.

## ORGANISATION, DEVELOPMENT AND PROPAGANDA

This committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. E. Raffles, J.P., recommended the adoption of land reclamation projects for Kfar Hanassi, Kvutzat Lavee and Beth Haemek as part of the J.N.F.'s traditional activity and asked the London Head Office to work out a detailed implementation of the scheme. It proposed the development of a system of regional keymen's meetings and discussed at length a new Blue Box award scheme which it sent back to the honorary officers for clarification and further consideration. The committee unanimously recommended the organisation of a second J.N.F. organised tour of Israel and urged London Head Office to explore the possibility of offering visits to young workers at reduced costs.

A report of these deliberations was brought to the full conference in the afternoon by Mr. H. Woolfson and Mrs. Valerie Gould.

## FUNCTIONS

Practical suggestions for improved co-ordination of functions work were the primary concern of this committee, whose chairman was Mr. S. J. Birn. It stressed the advantage of co-operation with outside bodies in stimulating activities, asked for consideration to be given to the advisability of arranging an exhibition illustrating the impact of J.N.F. work upon life in Israel (to

## "OUR RECORD YEAR"—SACHER TREASURER'S PICTURE OF LIGHT AND SHADE

In moving the adoption of the accounts as printed in the Annual Report, Mr. Michael Sacher, hon. treasurer, revealed that during the past year the J.N.F. had succeeded in transferring the record sum of £750,000 to Israel, though he warned that this included some non-recurring items totalling £150,000. Other points he made were:

- ¶ Through the streamlining of staff, salary expenses had shown a decrease.
- ¶ Income from functions and trees were showing an upward trend, but there was no appreciable change in box income.
- ¶ Smaller Jewish centres had been 'distressingly inactive.' Quoting the example of South Africa, he was sure that box income could be doubled.
- ¶ More than £23,000 had been remitted to Israel as a result of bequests in the department under Mr. M. Barnett's direction. The newly established Social Service Covenant Scheme was now distributing approximately £12,000 per annum among communal bodies.

The treasurer had special words of praise for Messrs. Miller and Gold of Glasgow for their organisation of the Glasgow Blue and White Bazaar; drew attention to the J.P.A. Year Book and

coincide with the 1954 annual conference), and recommend specific conventions of functions workers to take place in provincial venues. The committee believed that the efforts of functions committees would be assisted by the introduction of a monthly functions bulletin for inter-commission circulation, explored the possibilities of block bookings for orchestras and artistes for



*Mr. M. Sacher moves adoption of accounts.*

the £14,000 income it had produced in the past 12 months; applauded the new development of the Functions Department in its fruitful co-operation with outside bodies in the theatrical world. He appreciated the work of Mr. S. J. Birn, Dr. P. Magonet and Mr. R. J. Friedmann in this regard.

**Coronation Forest:** In a reference to the Queen Elizabeth Coronation Forest, he pointed out that this income was not included in the accounts. The K.K.L. in Israel was the planting agency and there was every likelihood of the target of £100,000 being attained.

The accounts were adopted.

functions, supported the establishment of further committees of younger people and reiterated previous recommendations on increased co-ordination to avoid clashes in dates. Mr. Birn and Mr. I. J. Pomson reported on its behalf to the full conference.

## FINANCE AND BEQUESTS

The honorary treasurer presided at this committee's deliberations, which underlined the necessity of developing Box income, viewed with concern the paucity of revenue from Golden Books and asked for matters of administration and finance to be discussed at special meetings of organisers together with Commission treasurers as part of the business of the provincial conference. Mr. M. Gold reported for this committee, which also dealt with means of publicising the work of the Executor and Trustee Company.



*Attendance at the Open Session at the Savoy Hotel, London, was nearly 1,000. Here is a section of the vast assembly. There were 300 delegates with full voting rights.*



# JNF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## FINAL SESSION HEARS DIRECTORS SUMMING-UP

### "ISRAEL THE REVITALISING CENTRE OF JEWRY!"

Opening the final session of the Conference, the president announced that a telegram in reply to the one sent from the Conference to Her Majesty had been received from the Queen's private secretary as follows:

"The Queen sincerely thanks the three hundred delegates to the twenty-ninth Annual Conference of the Jewish National Fund for their loyal greetings which Her Majesty sincerely appreciates."

**Debate:** The general debate on committee recommendations then took place, with the following participating: Dr. Pinner, Mrs. Waldman, Mr. E. Barnett, Miss B. Rosefield, Mr. R. de Groot, Mr. Goldman, Mr. S. Ellis, Mr. Stanton, Mr. Gellman, Mr. J. Goldstone, Mr. Stein, Mr. H. Lightstone, Mrs. Bursk, Mr. Abrahamson, Rev. Rosenfeld, Miss Barwell, Mr. Turner, Mr. S. I. Applebaum, Mrs. N. Coleman, Mr. E. Raffles, Mr. Silman, Mr. Fleishman, Mr. Shifrin, Mrs. Trouberman, Mr. Chanan, Mr. H. Elman, Mr. A. Richtiger, Dr. I. S. Fox, Mr. R. Chinn, Mr. Levy, Mr. F. Kahn, Mr. Franks, Mr. Pugachow, Mr. Chesler, Mr. P. Gold, Mr. A. Max, Mr. M. Glassman, Mr. M. B. Links, Mr. S. Abrahamson, and many others.

**Reply by Director:** Mr. Max Weiner, outgoing director of the Jewish National Fund, then wound up the debate. He was making this his last major official address before a national J.N.F. audi-

ence and as he rose, acclamation was accorded him. He thanked the president and the Conference for all the good wishes offered him and his wife on the occasion of their return home to Jerusalem, and he devoted the rest of his remarks to the urgency of enlisting large masses of young people to their work, not primarily to strengthen the Jewish National Fund's money-raising activities but because of the dire need to produce a new generation cognisant of its responsibilities and prepared for the great Jewish heritage which they must carry forward.

The Jews of Great Britain must be made aware that Israel was not a repository for the derelict, but the revitalising centre of all that is held precious in our history and destiny. Reminding his hearers of the true Zionist pioneers of a previous generation, he said that no Jewish parent could be given a greater source of pride than to have one of his children living the true pioneering agricultural life in the 'Anglo-Saxon' settlements in Israel.

### M.E. PEACE, HULEH PROJECT, HELP FOR BRITISH SETTLEMENTS, IN RESOLUTIONS PASSED

One of the most fruitful assemblies of the Jewish National Fund of Great Britain and Ireland, this twenty-ninth Annual Conference, terminated by the passing of the following three resolutions:

**On M.E. Peace:** This Conference sends

## OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

### BOXES, TREES AND GOLDEN BOOKS

Mr. B. B. Landau was chairman of this committee and the report, delivered by Mr. M. Simons, showed that it had endorsed Liverpool's proposal to present suitably inscribed Blue Boxes to young people on the occasion of their marriage. It thought boxes should be placed where possible in Jewish-owned factories, they should be made available to synagogue secretaries for distribution to newly-enrolled members and that individual commissions should form 'fellowships' specifically concentrating on box activities. Also in relation to box income, the committee advised quarterly meetings of London box chairmen and unanimously endorsed the proposal also discussed elsewhere for ten awards of trips to Israel for distribution by ballot to those qualifying throughout the country. It urged that closer note be taken of the innumerable festive family occasions occurring in Jewish life with a view to their being made occasions for the pre-

(Continued on page 23, col. 1)

its greetings to the people of Israel. It deplores the loss of innocent Jewish and Arab lives resultant upon the provocation of constant attacks by Arab marauders, but recognises the right of the Yishuv to defend its homesteads. At the same time, this Conference calls upon the United Nations, and in particular the United Kingdom Government, to pay due heed to the Government of Israel's constant offers of direct peace negotiations with the Arab States. It appeals to them to exert their influence to bring about a lasting peace in the Middle East, based upon the recognition of the legitimate, sovereign rights of Israel and her Arab neighbours.

**On Developing Resources:** This Conference sends its greetings to the Keren Kayemeth Leisrael, which is playing so prominent a part in the struggle to redeem the soil of Israel from desolation.

It assures the Government and people of Israel of its solidarity with them in their endeavours to develop to the full the nation's territory and resources, and rejects any attempt to obstruct such

(Continued on page 23, foot col. 1)



The Director makes a point. Also to be seen are: Mr. F. Bolle, Mr. E. Raffles, J.P., Mrs. V. Gould, Mr. J. Goldstone, Mr. H. Woolfson, Mr. S. Gestetner, Mr. M. Sacher, Mr. H. J. Osterley and Mr. S. J. Birn.



# JNF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**COMMITTEES**—Continued from page 22.  
sentation of Golden Books, Sefer Barmitzvah, Sefer Hayaed and Tree Certificates.

## YOUTH AND EDUCATION

Most important of the recommendations of this committee was that each commission appoint an education officer who would be liaison between local senior bodies and the Education Department. This department was also authorised to investigate the possibilities of establishing a reference library and reading room. It also asked for the revival of the old spirit of Tu B'Shvat celebrations in this country and for adults to become direct subscribers at a fee of £1 1s. per annum to the Youth and Education Department, in return for which they would receive all the material it produced. It asked for a greater appreciation of the educational value of children's fund-raising projects. These recommendations were amplified by Prof. J. Weingreen.

## RESOLUTIONS—Cont.

development by political or other pressures, as have recently been manifested, particularly in connection with the Huleh Reclamation Project.

**On British Pioneers:** This Conference expresses its apprehension at Israel's vulnerability, due to her continued dependence on international aid. It records its conviction that Israel's future as an independent State is the prime responsibility of World Jewry.

To this end, this Conference pledges its support for the Land Development Projects of the Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael, which are the basis for the nation's agricultural productivity and prosperity, and resolves:

- to maintain its active financial support of the Huleh undertaking until its completion;
- to give material encouragement to British settlements by pledging its financial support towards the reclamation of those parts of their lands which cannot otherwise be cultivated.

This Conference expresses its pride in the outstanding contribution which British pioneering youth has made to the consolidation of Jewish settlement in Israel, and is confident that Anglo-Jewry will respond to this additional task which their noble example imposes.



Provincial delegates were given a reception by the hon. treasurer and Mrs. Sacher after the conference. Pictured with their hosts are: Mr. Raffles, Mrs. Raffles, Mr. Woolfson and Mr. B. B. Landau, member of the Administrative Committee.

## This week's best boxes

LONDON		£ s. d.	DUBLIN		
<b>North</b>			Mr. Sol. Cohen, 39 Fortfield Drive, Terenure		11 0 0
Mr. J. Loeb, 36 Lyttleton Road ...		2 4 0	Major B. Freeman, 8 Rathdown Crescent, Terenure ...		8 2 0
Mrs. Frankel, 12 Greenhalgh Walk ...		2 0 0	Mr. L. Freedman, 103 Templeogue Road, Terenure ...		5 0 10
Mr. Rich, 14 Lynmouth Road ...		2 0 0	Mr. J. Tolkin (late), 9 Greenlea Park, Terenure ...		4 5 0
<b>East</b>			Mr. B. Levy, 31 Greenville Ter., Dolphin's Barn ...		4 1 3
Mr. J. Ori, c/o Messrs. Peter Thomas & Co. Ltd., 76 Hackney Road ...		5 3 6	Mrs. R. Elliman, 73 Templeogue Road, Terenure ...		3 18 1
Messrs. R.K.S. Furniture, 57 Redchurch St.		2 2 0	Mr. Leo Coleman, 43 Longwood Avenue, S. C. Road ...		3 18 0
<b>West</b>			Messrs. Freedman Ltd., Merchants Quay ...		3 16 0
Mr. Fealdman, 14 Portman Street ...		2 6 0	Mr. W. A. Freedman, 10 Rathdown Park, Terenure ...		2 6 10
Mr. Cohen, 51 Kensington Park Road ...		2 0 0	Mr. J. Harris, 39 Dufferin Ave., Dolphin's Barn ...		2 3 4
<b>North-West</b>			<b>GLASGOW</b>		
Mr. M. Koppelman, 60 Ashbourne Avenue		5 15 0	Mr. J. L. Werner, 4 Hexham Gdns., S.1		3 10 0
Mrs. Lesser, 5 Allington Court ...		4 1 0	Mr. B. Penkinsky, 116 Kirkcaldy Rd., S.1		2 6 6
Mr. H. Breitfield, 16 Heathway Court ...		4 0 0	<b>LEEDS</b>		
Mr. & Mrs. E. Victor, 51 Fitzjohn's Avenue		3 0 0	Mr. H. J. Overton, 372 Alwoodley Lane		2 12 0
Mr. H. Gholander, 13 Eton Rise ...		3 0 0	Mr. J. L. Brill, 15 Sandmoor Avenue, Alwoodley ...		2 12 0
Mr. J. Eker, 259 Chamberlayne Road ...		3 0 0	Mr. M. Davies, 575 Street Lane, 7 ...		2 12 0
Mr. J. Abrahams, 9 Mandeville Court ...		2 18 0	Dr. H. Sinson, 439 Harrogate Road, 7 ...		2 12 0
Mr. A. Landsman, 9 Trevelyan Gardens ...		2 17 0	Mr. E. Hurwitz, 5 Bentcliffe Grove, 7 ...		2 12 0
Mr. B. Rosenthal, 10 Belsize Park Gardens		2 11 2	Dr. J. Freeman, 1 North Lane, 8 ...		2 12 0
Mr. C. Sklan, 251 Chamberlayne Road ...		2 10 0	Mr. T. Vice, 46 Park Square, 1 ...		2 12 0
Mrs. Middleman, 183 Chamberlayne Road		2 10 0	Mr. R. Ellis, 260 Lidgett Lane, 7 ...		2 12 0
Mr. J. Braunstein, 49 Heathview ...		2 3 3	Mrs. R. Sacks, 53 Sandringham Crescent, Moortown ...		2 12 0
Mr. M. Samuel, 1 Egerton Gardens ...		2 3 3	Mr. D. Blackstone, 309 Harrogate Road, 7		2 12 0
Mr. J. E. Seiff, 48 Queens Grove ...		2 2 6	Mr. J. Ellis, 355 Harrogate Road, 7 ...		2 12 0
Mr. J. Braham, 117 Beaufort Park ...		2 2 0	<b>READING</b>		
Mrs. Adlersberg, 8 Haver Court ...		2 1 0	Mr. B. Lewis, 70 Upper Redlands Road ...		3 0 3
Mrs. Wimbourne, 62 Northways ...		2 0 0	<b>SUNDERLAND</b>		
Mr. S. Goldring, 7 St. James' Close		2 0 0	Mr. Markson, 3 Raglan Avenue ...		3 13 0
<b>South-West</b>			Mr. I. Gordon, 11 Elstul Place ...		3 10 0
Mr. Kon, 138 Nell Gwyn House ...		5 7 8	Mr. Hunt, 71 Alexandra Road ...		2 5 0
<b>Edgware</b>			Mr. Goutlieb, 91 Ryhope Road ...		2 2 6
Mr. & Mrs. Hassan, 21 Orchard Court ...		4 5 0	Mr. L. Ryson, "Crossways," Queen Alexandra Road ...		2 0 0
Jacqueline & Melvin Newman, 25 Mill Ridge ...		2 11 6	<b>WHITLEY BAY</b>		
<b>Wembley</b>			Messrs. Dukes & Markus, West Chirton, N. Shields ...		14 3 0
Mrs. R. Kislser, 27 Lawns Court ...		7 5 0	Mr. E. G. Markus, 28 Holywell Avenue ...		4 15 0
Mr. D. Cree, 3 Rugby Avenue ...		3 16 2	The Synagogue, 2 Oxford Street ...		3 14 0
Dr. & Mrs. Dymond, Cape House, Harrow Road ...		2 10 0	Mr. P. Morris, 20 St. Mary's Avenue ...		2 2 0
Mr. Fireman, 80 Beverley Gardens ...		2 5 0	Rev. S. Balanow, 38 Warkworth Avenue ...		2 0 0
Mr. E. Naschauer, 55 Danes Court ...		2 2 6			
Mr. K. Marks, 12 Wickcliffe Gardens ...		2 0 0			
<b>BRISTOL</b>					
Mr. V. Schlesinger, 15 St. Rowans Ave., 6		3 1 9½			
Mr. H. R. Levy, 27 West Street, 2 ...		2 0 0			

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